

VpAC Vibrio Rule Development Meeting

April 24, 2014

Attendees

In Person: Adam James, Bill Dewey, Brandy Brush, Cari Franz-West, Clara Hard, Dan Brinson, Dave Steele, Gordon Martinen, Jack Cheney, Jason Ragan, Jerrod Davis, , Ken Weigardt, Kris Phelps, Laura Wigand, Margaret Barrette, Miranda Ries, Ned Therien, Randy Hatch, Rick Porso, Scott Grout, Steve Bloomfield, and Tom Bloomfield

Via tele-Conference: Jared Keefer, Laurie Stewart, Rohinee Paranjpye, and Teri King

Purpose

The purpose of the Vibrio parahaemolyticus Advisory Committee (VpAC) is to work with the Department of Health to provide recommendations for consideration in future rule making regarding the Vibrio control plan set forth in WAC 246-282-006. The Department of Health will draft rule language that will be provided to the State Board of Health for review. The State Board of Health has the responsibility of approving any changes or modifications to the WAC, which may or may not include recommendations put forth by the committee.

Meeting Notes

Procedural:

- Main purpose of this meeting was to follow-up on the consumption survey plans and landings data collection methods, present data that could inform environmental triggers and discuss the tiered controls approach.

Consumption Survey:

- Quick introduction to Jack Cheney, UW master's student conducting the consumption survey
 - o Preliminary discussion of research plan: expert interviews and consumption survey to triangulate data on raw oyster serving size for WA
- Recommendation to coordinate with other efforts such as the ISSC proposal put forward by ECSGA for a national survey
 - o DOH aware of those efforts and will make efforts to coordinate/ensure surveys are complementary, DOH also aware of a MA Sea Grant effort to complete a consumption survey
- Consider tribal consumption surveys that have been completed – general seafood consumption surveys but may have some relevant information
- Continue to reach out to other funding sources: Sea Grant, NMFS, CDC, etc
- Steve Bloomfield elected to be part of the shellfish grower interviews by Scott Grout
- Interview servers at restaurants
- VpAC members would like to stay involved and be kept updated on the study's progress
- Need to take the time to do the survey right, collect the data we need
- Should consider differences/challenges associated with festivals vs. restaurant consumption
- Some restaurant s track sales, may be a useful dataset to consider—would not get at serving size but may be useful for overall trends

Landings Data:

- Captain Dan Brinson of WDFW presented on WDFW's efforts—looking to revise the WAC to revise reporting form and would like to work with DOH and industry on the revision
- Could have pdf submission now and work towards an electronic submission process
- Landings reporting is not currently a top enforcement priority although it is a requirement, revising the form would lead to it becoming a higher priority
 - o Would work through educating growers and then taking enforcement action
 - o Not reporting would invalidate an aquatic farm registration
 - o Would need checks and balances within WDFW and DOH, such as linking to DOH leases
 - o Could cross-reference in rule so DOH may be able to take action if data is not submitted
- WDFW does not have a good sense right now of how accurate the reported data is
- DOH inspectors may be better able to check that data being submitted is accurate/provide oversight
- Aquatic farm registration may need a more extensive overhaul
 - o Information needs to be conveyed back to growers
 - o Needs more checks and balances
 - o Cert numbers and farm names should batch
 - o Farm license is lax, where you need the DOH cert to sell product, tying landings to DOH cert may give it more teeth
- Housing the requirement with DOH makes it more official
- Aquatic districts do not always align with growing area boundaries
- Should have parallel efforts at DOH and WDFW
- DOH should house, until capable should use WDFW as a stopgap
- WDFW has the staffing resources, DOH does not
- Could WDFW or DOH shut down a company quicker?
 - o DOH could tie landings reporting to the control plan or to license requirements—would be a long process and DOH would not be able to immediately pull licenses, would need more discussion
- Need to consider the long-term: come up with a lasting solution and get the funding to do it right
 - o Align reporting seasons, growing areas and tie to harvest sites
 - o Should be planning the ideal program for 10 years from now

Tiers and Triggers:

- Picking back up from discussions and ideas created by VpAC in July and updated with some new data from Hilary's work with growers implicated in illnesses
- Warm temperatures and daytime low tides are the focus
- Need to develop a temperature collection protocol
- With a 65F water, 75F air, and mid-day low tide trigger should see a significant reduction in illnesses
- Growers should use TDLs for temperature monitoring
 - o May work for some, but should not be required, other methods exist
 - o Temperatures tend not to jump overnight (in Hood Canal) but they can fall quickly
- Growers are monitoring temperatures all the time, they can shoot the water with a gun, use a probe, etc. already do it in coolers and with storage
- Need a consistent method industry-wide
- Growers should have tools to predict when conditions will be favorable for Vp, would really like to see more temperature stations/buoys

- Remote temperature capabilities would help growers manage their farms during the season
- DOH has requested funds from FDA to purchase remote devices, hope to have request funded and pilot this summer
- DOH has a weather station
- DOH reviewed the timeline: language needs to be developed by this fall, can be informed/revised based on this summer's data
 - Organizing small group meetings to further discuss and then present to the full group at the 5/22 meeting

Next Steps:

- DOH:
 - Work with Jack and growers to organize field trips to shellfish operations for Jack
 - Work with growers on a temperature collection protocol
 - Develop graphs—temperature data by site, examples for setting triggers
 - Set up meetings throughout the summer
- Industry members:
 - Follow up with Jack: jckcheney@gmail.com
 - Collect temperature data—develop protocols and work out the kinks this summer
 - Dave S., Jason, Scott, Sue: share temperature data for submerged data loggers